

DRAWINGS

Two sets of drawings are enclosed herein - a marked-up set and a clean set as required by the "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review." New FIG. 5 and 6 are enclosed herein. FIG. 5 and 6 have been added to describe an embodiment having a plurality of holes as originally claimed. No new matter has been added herein.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Examiner has cited U.S. Patent #4,743,034 issued to Kakabaker (hereinafter "Kakabaker") in view of U.S. Patent #5,158,304 issued to Orlowski (hereinafter "'304") as anticipating Applicant's invention. Applicant submits that Kakabaker has a rotor 22 between the rotating shaft 13 and the stator 23. Applicant submits that '304 also has a rotor 24 between shaft 100 and stator 20, which precludes close proximity of the stator 20 to the shaft 100.

The annular grooves 64', 57' in the stator 23 disclosed in Kakabaker are not adjacent the shaft 13', but instead are adjacent annular grooves 35', 32', respectively, in the rotor 22'. Therefore, a rotor 22' portion is located between the shaft 13' and the lubricant collection grooves 57' and 64' of the stator 23' so that the shaft 15 is not in direct communication with the lubricant collection grooves 57' and 64' of the stator 23'.

The structure taught by '304 that is relevant to the present application is the trough 92 that is sloped at a downward angle relative to the shaft 16. However, this trough is not at the bottom of an elongated slot formed on the stator interior end face as it is in the present invention. In '304 there is no stator interior end face wall to define an elongated slot or hole in the stator interior end face. The relationship between the drain trough 92 in '304 and that in present invention is different because the elements are oriented differently. In '304, the trough 92 that drains lubricant back to the lubricant sump is not part of an elongated slot or hole. Therefore, '304 does not disclose the invention substantially as claimed and noted above.

None of the references individually or in combination, teach, describe or suggest having an annular stator groove or cavity adjacent to and/or exposed to the shaft to strip and collect the lubricant adhering thereto. As Kakabaker states "the

stator closely surrounds the rotor" which surrounds the shaft, subsequently isolating the stator from the shaft. In contrast, Applicant teaches a design wherein both stator and rotor surround said shaft and are adjacent thereto, wherein the rotating shaft performs the function of stripping lubricant adhering to said shaft (and not the rotor as in the prior art cited by the Examiner) and the stator performs the function of collecting the lubricant stripped from said shaft for return to a sump.

CONCLUSION


In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and requests that the outstanding rejections be withdrawn. If a telephone conference would expedite allowance of the claims, the examiner may wish to telephone Applicant's attorney at 563-441-0207.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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